

BOOK REVIEW

WILLIAM A. WEBER AND RONALD C. WITTMANN. 2007. **Bryophytes of Colorado: Mosses, Liverworts, and Hornworts.** (ISBN 978-0979090912, pbk.). Pilgrims Process, Inc., P.O. Box 32597, Santa Fe, New Mexico 87594-2597, U.S.A. (**Orders:** www.pilgrimsprocess.com, 1-720-937-6641). \$29.95, 231 pp., 8 1/2" × 11".

Almost too small to appreciate except *en masse*, bryophytes are not simple. When viewed with a hand lens or microscope some of the most interesting, unusual, and captivating structures in the plant world are revealed.

The genesis for the current work began with a preliminary publication by Weber in 1973. He presented a catalog and keys of the mosses, at that time identifying about 290 species without including liverworts and hornworts. The current work describes over 500 species including the liverworts and hornworts and is the most comprehensive study of Colorado mosses and liverworts to date. It will be useful in adjacent parts of neighboring states and in the mountainous regions of the interior western United States.

Beginners and students will find this book a valuable reference even though it does not have complete descriptions. Keys to the genera and species are combined with notes on recognition in the field. The authors concentrate on distinguishing characteristics of similar taxa and providing comprehensive ecological notes. Keys are furnished for the identification of genera and species, but the authors have been unable to produce a useful key to the families. They note that there are family keys available on the internet, but that for the seasoned bryologist, family identification is a matter of experience and that for the beginner there is no substitute for a mentor.

Only a few interesting species are illustrated. Readers are referred to the internet for further illustrations of genera and species as well as basic information about their life history and anatomy.

Recommended for the knowledgeable botanist and researcher. Should be available in major collections and research facilities.

William A. Weber is Professor Emeritus at the University of Colorado at Boulder, and the former curator of the University of Colorado Museum Herbarium. He is the author of numerous books on flowering plants, ferns, and lichens as well as bryophytes, concentrating on Colorado and the Rocky Mountains, but international in scope as well.

Ronald C. Wittmann is a professional physicist, an accomplished amateur botanist, and is the co-author of the latest versions of the Colorado Flora.—Gary L. Jennings, Librarian, Botanical Research Institute of Texas, Fort Worth, Texas 76102-4025, U.S.A.